# WRL NEWS SUPPLEMENT

MARCH-APRIL 1971

(WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012)


# THE SPRING OFFENSIVE

## SPRING OFFENSIVE BEGINS

When an organization has a deficit, it doesn't send out first class mailings to 15,000 persons unless there is a crisis. That crisis is here now, in three places. There is a crisis, first of all, in Indochina, where Laos has been invaded and there is strong reason to believe an invasion of North Vietnam may occur at any time.

The second crisis is in Washington, D.C., where military control of foreign policy is now obvious. The machinery of death runs the nation, and Congress lacks the will to halt it.

The third crisis is in ourselves. We are lucky, as Americans. We can go to a peace demonstration one day and a party the next, help put out a mailing one evening and see a movie the next. The Indochinese are not so lucky. There is nowhere they can hide. They are exposed night and day to bombs constructed by Americans, and paid for by our taxes.

The answer to the three crises we have listed is up to us, though not to us alone. By the end of the Spring Offensive we assume most of the WRL staff will be arrested in Washington for civil disobedience—along with many of you getting this now. But we know that the Spring Offensive will probably not, by itself, halt this war. That will be—we should know now — a long process, taking many months more. There has been an organized opposition to this war for ten years, and yet the war has continued. Our mistake was always in thinking that "one more rally" or "one more election" would stop the war. Now we know that the resistance to this war and to this government requires a deep and continuing mobilization of the American people.

The Spring Offensive is important for two reasons. First, it is the first time we have seriously tried to bring together the movements for social justice with the movements for peace. (A significant analysis of the reasons for that link is contained in the February 15 issue of WIN, in an article by David McReynolds — send 30c for a copy.) The Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice is organized on the basis of linking the two movements into a single force, a force that will continue beyond spring, into summer and autumn and winter. There are many summer soldiers, but we are now building a movement of "winter soldiers," using nonviolence to end the war and to regain our nation.

The second reason the Spring Offensive is important is the willingness of a broad range of peace groups *to use nonviolent civil disobedience over an extended period.* The liberals will come to Washington on April 24—and so will we. The liberals will go home the next day, satisfied with a "legal, peaceful rally." We are calling on those who believe in nonviolence to remain in Washington, or to plan to return to Washington sometime between April 26 and May 5, to take part in massive civil disobedience. While many are traveling home by bus and by car the evening of April 24, satisfied with a mass rally, the bombs will still be falling in Indochina.

And so we have a Spring Offensive, worked out with great effort in meetings that go back to November and December. The War Resisters League supports the Peoples Coalition and the Spring Offensive. This emergency bulletin lists a range of actions that you can take in your local area. The Calendar is long, the temptation is to "pick one date" rather than support the full program. We can only lay these plans before you, say that we, as staff, are committed to them, that the executive committee is committed to them, and that we hope you will share—in action—our concern.

Our role is crucial, because as you look at the calendar you will see that nonviolent actions begin April 26. That first week of April 26-April 30 has been informally assigned to the pacifists—to WRL, AFSC, FOR, Resistance, etc. It is our job to set the tone of the actions to follow the first week of May, to explain to the population in Washington why we are there, and to lead the way with those nonviolent tactics we believe in and have long aruged are the strongest weapon to set a people free. *At least one thousand persons are needed for that week who are willing to accept arrest.*

## CALENDAR FOR SPRING OFFENSIVE

(please attempt to organize local dates and actions around this calendar, if possible, rather than competing with it.)

APRIL 1-4 Tribute in Action to Martin Luther King Jr. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the National Welfare Rights Organization have called for local actions across the nation around the theme "freedom from hunger, war, and repression." For details see page 2. (Note, in New York there will be a special rally on April 5 at Wall Street when the SCLC mule train gets into town on its way to Washington.)

APRIL 19-23 DEWEY CANYON 3—Vietnam Veterans Against The War organize intensive actions in Washington D.C. (For details see page 4.)

APRIL 24 Mass Rally in Washington D.C., and San Francisco. These rallies center around three demands to be made on Congress: (1) Immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Vietnam and setting the date for the completion of that withdrawal. (2) $6500 Guaranteed Annual Income for a family of four—set the date. (3) Free all political prisoners—set the date.

APRIL 25 We call on those who come to Washington to remain after April 24, to organize in nonviolent movement centers and prepare for two weeks of civil disobedience. There will be a People's Lobby on April 26, and civil disobedience will begin April 27 *and continue.*

MAY 2 Sunday Rally with George Wiley, Ralph Abernathy, and, hopefully, Cesar Chavez speaking. A day with a religious character to help build the dynamic of continuing nonviolent actions.

MAY 3-4 The People's Lobby and Massive Civil Disobedience continue. This means visiting all possible government offices to urge employees to support the Peoples Peace Treaty. It means civil disobedience to close war-oriented government buildings.

MAY 5 Moratorium on Business As Usual — across the nation and in Washington. Schools and colleges should close, as should businesses. In the capital there will be a march on Congress to demand it remain in session until It has acted on the demands of the Peoples Coalition Locally we urge civil disobedience at such government offices as IRS and draft and recruiting offices.

MAY 16 Actions in Solidarity with G.I.'s (details p. 4).

# APRIL 2-4 ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

In April of 1967 Martin Luther King Jr. enraged moderate civil rights leaders by publicly linking the civil rights movement with the peace movement. A year later, almost to the day, he was assassinated. This April, the peace movement is doing the reverse of what King did in 1967—we are linking our movement with the movement for an end of racism, poverty, and repression. The April dates are *not dates for peace action,* but for the peace movement *to act on domestic social issues.*

We urge you to locate the local leaders of the *United Farm Workers,* the *Southern Christian Leadership Conference,* and the *National Welfare Rights Organization* to see how you can relate to their programs in your own town or city. Here are some suggestions:

WELFARE RIGHTS: Many people will be living voluntarily on the welfare food budget for the week of March 28 to April 3, giving the money saved to: National Welfare Rights Organization, 1419 H St. N.W., Washington D.C. 2005. You can also organize a"welfare banquet" through your church or union or on campus, serving just those foods one could afford on a welfare budget. Charge $5 for the "banquet" and give that to NWRO as it wages a fight against the cut-off of welfare in Nevada and the efforts by Ronald Reagan to stage a similar cut-off in California.

LETTUCE BOYCOTT. Cesar Chavez has organized demonstrations at military bases to protest the Pentagon policy of buying lettuce from Bud Antle, the largest grower being struck, and a firm that is part of Dow Chemical. You can organize demonstrations at all markets that carry lettuce from Bud Antle. (The lettuce being boycotted is *iceberg lettuce*—all other lettuce is all right: romaine, chicory, boston, etc. Some markets now carry iceberg lettuce that is union-label—support those markets.)

OPERATION BREADBASKET. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is boycotting a number of A & P markets over their hiring policies and the poor quality of food available in ghetto areas. If there is an SCLC in your area, find out how you can cooperate in this action.

SCHOOL "TEACH-INS." When you plan actions for April 2-4 you may want to urge your high school or college to use Friday, April 2, for a study of Martin Luther King, of poverty, of the need to "turn America around," away from war toward social justice.

TRANSFER OF TAX FUNDS. The War Resisters League and War Tax Resistance have put together a statement, signed thus far by Benjamin Spock, Allen Ginsberg, Roy Kepler, Grace Paley, Joseph Chaikin, Paul Goodman, Dave Dellinger, W. H. Ferry, Doug Dowd, Al Hassler, Dotson Rader, Honey Knopp, Ralph DiGia, David McReynolds, Jim Peck. The "call" urges that all those who will owe taxes on April 15 to take anything from $10 to $50 out of that tax check, in advance, and give it locally to a community project which needs help. Such projects include day care centers, drug addict centers, breakfast programs, jail bond funds to help the poor make bail, etc. You know your own community and know which projects need funds. We urge that in every city and town the peace groups *pool those checks* into a single fund and transfer that fund at a press conference. For example, if Berkeley gets 250 people each to give $10, that is $2500 altogether. Those checks should be given directly as a lump sum to the project or projects that need support—and that transfer should occur with the press present. This project is one of nonviolent civil disobedience—*not tax evasion.* We are taking money directly out of the hands of the government and putting it into the hands of the community. When you file your return on April 15, simply note that your tax check is "short" by $10, $25 or $50 because you have already transferred that money from the machinery of death into the institution of life in your community.

This project is important. If you cannot organize it in your own area because time is short, you should make out your check to: *National Peoples Life Fund* and mail it to Brad Lyttle, 1029 Vermont Ave. N.W., Room 900, Washington D.C. 20005. Those checks will be used at a press conference to be called by the People's Coalition sometime between April 2-4 *and the money will be transferred into community projects in Washington D.C., itself,* where 80% of the population is black, and where welfare, crime and poverty are major problems.

Copies of the full text of the "call to nonviolent tax resistance" are printed and available from our office—$1/100. Time is short—write or phone us, (212) 228-0450 for copies and we will send them air mail or special handling.

Also ask us for the name of the War Tax Resistance nearest you, which will be coordinating local and regional "People's Life Funds."

## DRAFT RESISTANCE PART OF SPRING OFFENSIVE

At a special meeting in Washington D.C. on February 27-28 the National Council to Repeal The Draft and various Resistance groups, including *Showdown,* met together and agreed on a joint program of lobbying and resistance. Ralph DiGia and Peter Kiger represented WRL at the conference. By the time this reaches you the March 17 "Emergency Convocation To Repeal the Draft" will already have taken place—but it is not too late for you to write both your Senators and your Congressman urging them to block Nixon's plan to ram through the Draft Extension bill before there is time for organizing public opposition.

Even if Nixon gains the extension of the draft, we will continue to abolish the draft by nonviolent direct actions. Two of the groups most active in hitting at the draft are *Showdown* and Charlottesville Draft Resistance (128 Chansellor Street, Charlottesville, Va. 22903). Both groups are expected to join with others of draft age in nonviolent civil disobedience in Washington the last week of April. The *Showdown* statement, which should be turned in to local Resistance groups or mailed to the Peace Brigade, calls for a "total strike" against the draft and can be duplicated by you for special use!

"We, the draft age men of the United States of America, hereby proclaim and pledge our collective refusal to cooperate with the selective service system. This action means we will refuse to register, refuse to accept any deferments or classifications, refuse to carry a draft card, and refuse induction. As a commitment to resistance, we will turn in our draft cards, if we have not already done so, to a local resistance group.

"We believe that the draft is a vital part of a war machine that denies freedom to us and to other people around the world. We recognize that through collective resistance we have the power to end the Vietnam war, or any war, and to end the draft's oppression of our lives. We are now exercising that power.

"We further recognize that the chance of prosecution is minimized or eliminated by collective action, but that we are not necessarily immunne from federal prosecution.

"Our actions are an assertion of life and liberty for ourselves and for all peoples."

Signed name ..... Printed Name .....

Address ..... Phone .....

(Return to: *Showdown,* 2400 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, Calif. 94704. Also write *Showdown* for full information on their campaign.)

# PEOPLE'S PEACE TREATY

We the undersigned endorse the substance of this treaty, which was drafted cooperatively by a special delegation from the National Students Association of the United States, the South Vietnam National Student Union, the South Vietnam Liberation Students Union, and the North Vietnam Student Union, at meetings in Saigon, Hanoi and Paris, December, 1970.

In signing our names to it as individuals with the support of our organizations, we indicate a moral obligation to go beyond education and publicity for the treaty, to concrete acts that will give meaning to our signatures.

In any or all of the following ways, we would seek to make clear the need for individuals to break their ties to our warmaking government: the refusal of military service, the resistance to payment of federal taxes, the refusal to work on military contracts for defense research, the willingness to join in support of mass nonviolent civil disobedience in Washington D.C. and around the nation this spring, and the political defeat of and opposition to all in office who support the Administration on the war. We believe this treaty contains the essentials of a just and immediate peace, which would not only end the horror of war for the Vietnamese, but would make it possible for us to use our recurces in our own country to combat poverty and racism.

James Best, FOR; James Estes, AFSC; Mike Herthneck, AQAG; Bob Levering, AFSC; Brad Lyttle, WTR; Jack Malinowski, Phila. Resistance; Stewart Meacham, AFSC; David McReynolds, WRL; Pat Samuel, WILPF; Helena Sheehan, WTR (statement drafted and signed at a meeting of the National Action Group of pacifist organizations, Philadelphia, February 11, 1971)

## A JOINT TREATY OF PEACE
## BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES,
## SOUTH VIETNAM AND NORTH VIETNAM

### INTRODUCTION

*Be it known that the American and Vietnamese people are not enemies. The war is carried out in the name of the people of the United States, but without our consent. It drains America of her resources, her youth and her honor.*

*We hereby agree to end the war on the following terms, so that both peoples can live unnder the joy of independence and can devote themselves to building a society based on human equality and respect for the earth. In rejecting the war we also reject all forms of racism and discrimination against people based on color, class, sex, national origin and ethnic grouping which permeates the war policies, present and past, of the United States.*

*PRINCIPLES OF THE JOINT TREATY OF PEACE*

AMERICANS agree to immediate and total withdrawal from Vietnam, and publicly to set the date by which all U.S. military forces will be removed.

VIETNAMESE agree to participate in an immediate ceasefire, and will enter into discussions on the procedures to guarantee the safety of all withdrawing troops, and to secure the release of all American prisoners including pilots captured while bombing North Vietnam.

AMERICANS pledge to end the imposition of Thieu-Ky-Khiem on the people of South Vietnam in order to insure their right of self-determination, and to insure that all political prisoners are released.

VIETNAMESE pledge to form a provisional coalition government to organize democratic elections, in which all South Vietnamese can participate freely without the presence of any foreign troops, and to enter discussions of procedures to guarantee the safety and political freedom of persons who cooperated with either side in the war.

AMERICANS AND VIETNAMESE agree to respect the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos and Cambodia.

Upon these points of agreement, we pledge to end the war. We will resolve all other questions in mutual respect for the rights of self-determination of the people of Vietnam and of the United States.

AS AMERICANS RATIFYING THIS AGREEMENT, WE PLEDGE TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS ARE APPROPRIATE TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THIS JOINT TREATY OF PEACE, AND TO INSURE ITS ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I/WE ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PEOPLE'S PEACE TREATY

Signed: .....
(organization)

Signed: .....
(individual)

*The terms of the Treaty were worked out in discussion among members of student associations in South and North Vietnam, and in the United States. Other citizens' groups plan meetings with Vietnamese citizens to discuss terms for peace.*

*Return this endorsement to:*
PEOPLE'S PEACE TREATY,
Room 900, 1029 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20005

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# The Peace Treaty and How to Use It

The text of the peace treaty carried in this emergency issue is slightly different in wording from the text carried in the January-February WRL NEWS—the material in the treaty has simply been rearranged to make it shorter and easier to use. There is also a preamble added by representatives of pacifist groups that met in Philadelphia to endorse the treaty. For local work, you may use the treaty with or without this preamble.

You will want to know that in the *New York Times* of March 7 there was an ad in support of the treaty, carrying—among others—the following names: Ralph Abernathy, Congresswoman Bella Abzug, Joan Baez, Rev. Daniel Berrigan, Rev. Philip Berrigan, Julian Bond, Noam Chomsky, Judy Collins, Leon Davis, Congressman Ron Dellums, Congressman Don Edwards, Jules Feiffer, Jane Fonda, Betty Friedan, Senator Charles Goodell, Dick Gregory, Rock Hudson, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., Kate Millet, Senator Eugene McCarthy, Congressman Parren Mitchell, Congressman William F. Ryan, Benjamin Spock, George Wald, George Wiley—and Karl Hess, former speech-writer for Barry Goldwater.

The Treaty has two powerful thrusts. The first is that it lays out in clear terms the basis for an immediate and honorable end of the war. Nixon says he wants our prisoners in North Vietnam released—but he has not been able to release them, not even in the clumsy raid at "Son Tay." The Peace Treaty shows that they can be released if Nixon sets a date for total withdrawal. Nixon says he has invaded Cambodia, Laos, and is contemplating invading North Vietnam in order to "secure the safety" of our troops as they are withdrawn. The Treaty makes it clear that if a date is set for withdrawal, there will be *an immediate cease fire and total security for withdrawing American troops.* Nixon warns about the danger of a massacre of civilians if we leave (and to prevent that, he engages in daily massacres through massive civilian bombings). The Treaty pledges full security for all who collaborated with the U.S. if only we withdraw.

The Treaty, in short, points the way to peace *now* if America will pledge to withdraw *now.* Where our official negotiators have failed, the students have written the text for a workable peace. We are saying people should look this treaty over, ask whether it makes sense, and if it does, sign it. Nixon's policy is a war policy. The Treaty offers an honorable and immediate peace. We are convinced most Americans do not realize that the obstacle to peace is not "stubborn" Vietnamese negotiators at Paris, but *our government.*

Second, the Treaty is asking people to end the war through their own actions. We are saying "Look, you want peace—make it. The government is not going to act. More than 70% of all Americans want our troops out of Indochina by the end of this year—force the government to bring them out."

Some of the ways to compel the government to make peace include draft and tax resistance, nonviolent civil disobedience at war-related government offices, mass demonstrations, intensive lobbying of Congress, support of civil disobedience in Washington and around the nation.

*Ways of Using the Treaty*

First, let your community know about it. Send for extra copies of the Treaty—we have them available with this side, where the instructions are, left blank for signatures. They are $1/100 from our office. See if you can get local citizens and groups to sponsor it and take out an ad in your local paper. (Feel free to use any of the nationally prominent names we listed in the second paragraph.)

Second, take the Treaty from door to door or set up a table at shopping centers to get signatures, and mail them to: Peace Treaty, Room 900, 1029 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Third, take the Treaty into local groups—trade unions, churches, your city council, faculty senate, student government, women's group, etc. Ask the group to endorse the treaty. Let the press and your Congressman know of those endorsements. Urge local groups to implement their support by coming to Washington or by organizing local actions, particularly organizing a moratorium on May 5.

## ACTIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY PLANNED FOR APRIL 19-23 AND MAY 16

The Vietnam Veterans Against War are planning to bring a large number of veterans, members of GI families, and wives and parents of war prisoners, into Washington D.C. from April 19 to 23 for very intensive lobbying, guerilla theater, and, probably, civil disobedience.

On May 16 there will be nationwide demonstrations at military bases—demonstrations to support the increasing resistance to the Indochinese war from men already in uniform. If you are in the military, or if you are close to a military base, you can get full information on current plans by writing to: G.I. Counseling Service, 339 Lafayette Street, New York City 10012.

If WRL members know of friends in the military, we urge you to send this special bulletin on to them (or write and ask us to mail a copy to them) so they will have details on the Spring Offensive. *It is particularly important to solicit signatures for the Peoples Peace Treaty from men and women in the armed forces.*

## BUTTONS, POSTERS, LEAFLETS

The Peoples Coalition is putting out buttons and posters and leaflets. These can be ordered either from the WRL or from the Peoples Coalition, 1029 Vermont Ave., N.W., Room 900, Washington D.C. 20005. As we go to press we do not have the cost, so we suggest you send what you can and ask for what is available.

## AN URGENT REMINDER ON FUNDS

The cost of supporting the Spring Offensive is already heavy. A special mailing went to 1300 key contacts, first class. The WRL NEWS is being mailed first class (the first time we can remember doing that). If you haven't yet responded to the recent fund appeal, please use the enclosed business reply envelope to send whatever you can. If you have contributed, see if you can possibly send an extra contribution to meet the extra costs.

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